

Bradford Island
Bradford Island Updates and Technical Discussions
22 September 2022; 1500 – 1600

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| | Pre-Meeting Agenda & Invitees |
| X | Post-Meeting Minutes & Participants |

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|---|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| X | Chris Budai (USACE) | | Kathleen Peshek (EPA) |
| X | Dan Carlson (USACE) | X | Laura Knudsen (EPA) |
| X | Bill Gardiner (USACE) | X | Elizabeth Allen (EPA) |
| X | Kristen Kerns (USACE) | | Andy Smith (Ecology) |
| X | Dan Sluss (USACE) | X | Rebecca Lawson (Ecology) |
| X | Helen Bottcher (EPA) | X | Jennifer Peterson (DEQ) |
| X | Richard Francis (EPA) | X | Mike Poulsen (DEQ) |
| X | Tim Maley (EPA) | X | Heidi Nelson (DEQ) |

Agenda:

1. Community Outreach update
 - Public interviews
 - Public meetings
 - CAG formation and purpose
 - Columbia Riverkeeper workshop
2. 2020/2022 Fish data update
3. ATSDR update

Electronic database

- EPA asked if there was an electronic database for all Bradford Island data.
- USACE has all data leading up to the RI in Microsoft Access, but post-RI data is in individual Excel files. USACE to further evaluate database options. Microsoft Access may be preferred.
- EPA said the FFA negotiations would discuss data sharing and access in electronic form that works for everyone and thought that a Microsoft Access database would be acceptable.

Community Outreach update

- USACE received a draft interview report from contractor Balcom Environmental containing interviews from the community over the last 1.5 months.
- The next deliverable from the USACE contractor is a revised CIP, due in mid-October.

CUI – Legal

- The next public meeting hosted by USACE will be held at the Cascade Locks City Council Chambers in the evening on October 19. The meeting will include a community involvement update including announcement of the formation of a CAG, a discussion of the fish advisory around Bradford Island by the Oregon Health Authority, and a review of the CERCLA process.
- Chris Budai and Helen Bottcher will be attending a Columbia Riverkeeper workshop on Bradford Island on September 29 as panelists.
- EPA requested to see the draft community interview report from Balcom. USACE stated that they need to review the draft before sharing.
- Discussion of tribal involvement in the community interview report. Yakama Nation members were interviewed and USACE continues to request interviews from other tribes. USACE asked EPA for contacts with the other tribes, including Nez Perce, Warm Springs, and Umatilla to assist with obtaining interviews from those tribes. EPA said they would provide some contacts for each tribe.
- Discussion of the CAG format. USACE intends for the CAG to be a forum that includes technical discussions, envisioning sub-committees for technical discussions. The details need to be worked out in the CAG policies and procedures.
- EPA asked how tribes would be involved. USACE would like to include tribes in technical discussions as part of CAG meetings.
- For CAG meeting frequency, the public generally indicated they only want to meet if there was a need.
- For the upcoming public meeting on October 19, it will be a hybrid in-person workshop as well as virtual meeting. There will be stations for the different purposes of the meeting, including a CERCLA overview, community involvement update, and fish advisory discussion. EPA said they might be interested in having a Superfund 101 station, and will let USACE know if they will participate in the meeting.

ATSDR update

- USACE met on-site yesterday at Bradford Island for a site walk on September 21 with the Oregon Health Authority, who is preparing a health assessment for ATSDR of Bradford Island.

2020/2022 Fish data update

- An updated report for the 2020 tissue data was released by USACE this week. Tables are updated in the report with the new values. Total PCB sums are in Kaplan Meier with Efron's cap. It includes corrections from the lab, Level 4 data reports, and a comparison of ERDC lab data to Eurofins lab data. USACE found a notable difference between PCB concentrations reported by method 8082 and method 1668. Less than 10% of the difference appears to be associated with the congeners analyzed by Method 1668 that are not analyzed by Method 8082. Approximately 1.5% of the difference appears to be associated with the lower detection limits reported by Method 1668. The most significant influence on the different concentrations between the labs appeared to be due to differences between the Soxhlet extraction for Method 1668 and sonication extraction for Method 8082. Using the Soxhlet extraction method, 1.5 – 2 times greater concentrations for bass were observed and 1.5 – 3 times greater for all tissue. Soxhlet is a stronger extraction method. USACE is looking to modify Eurofin's contract to analyze archived 2020 homogenized bass for 209 congeners with method 1668.
- EPA asked if a factor can be developed to estimate that data is X times greater instead of an expensive reanalysis of all the data. EPA questioned the holding time of the tissue.

CUI – Legal

- USACE stated that since the data is important for understanding human health at the site, it is important to analyze the archived tissue. USACE chemists determined that PCB degradation would not be significant for the time the tissue has been held. Holding time is typically a year, but references suggested longer holding times are OK.
- EPA suggested that if it's an extraction issue for the difference between the data sets, the issue might be certain congeners were not extracted. EPA questioned if missing congeners might be the cause for the differences seen, not the extraction method.
- USACE investigated this and found that it was an efficiency issue. All the congeners are extracted but not to the same degree with EPA Method 8082A.
- EPA questioned if the reanalyzes will change any decisions moving forward. Tissue samples won't influence alternatives chosen for the feasibility study for the river at this stage.
- USACE agreed that this tissue data will not change whether remediation is necessary. USACE believes having a reliable data set is important to understand tissue concentration changes over time.
- DEQ raised a concern with certain data reported in the updated tissue data report. DEQ raised the problem of only having the data in Excel and not having an electronic data set to compare to. The recent EPA Method 1668A PCB data for biota were not provided in Excel format.
- DEQ asked to be provided with electronic results of the polyethylene passive samplers re-analyzed for the full 209 PCB congeners by EPA Method 1668A.